










Merging Duplicate Individuals

The goal of FamilySearch is to create one giant tree for all of mankind in which every person who ever lived is recorded exactly once.

Why do duplicates occur?

- When a living person dies
- Batch indexing
- New.familysearch.org the precursor to FamilySearch Family Tree did not have a merge option
- Information was dumped into FamilySearch from several sources including the IGI, Temple Index, etc. This accounted for many of the duplicates that FamilySearch was notorious for in the beginning
- Two people may be working on the same line but from different directions. For example, you may be in the US working on your ancestors in Sweden while someone in Sweden has your ancestor in their tree already and doesn't know where they went to in America
- A person adds their information into the tree, and it is different enough from what is already in the tree, that the algorithm doesn't recognize it. This is especially true for the royal families when they are put in in different languages. For example, one person might add "Gorm den Gamle," while another person puts in "Gorm the Old," another person puts in "Konge Gorm," another puts in "King of Denmark Gorm," etc.

People Found in the Shared Family Tree		
1-20 Results of 26,670		
Name	Events	Relationships
 Gorm " The Old" den Gamle Deceased • M6C8-FVD		Spouse  Beatrex of England Deceased • M6C8-FVL
 Gorm den Gamle 0895-0958 • G3TC-Q79	Birth after 0895 Jelling, Vejle, Denmark Death about 0958 Jelling, Vejle, Denmark Burial about 0959 Jelling, Vejle, Denmark	Spouse  Thyra Dannebod 0880-0935 • L8TJ-56P Parents  Hardeknud, Konge af Danerne 0870-0936 • L2RQ-6PC  Wife of Hardeknud Deceased • GDFS-8P4



Gorm Geva he Old Knudsson King of Denmark
 before 0900 – 0958 • G6KT-TWN

[VIEW TREE](#)
[VIEW RELATIONSHIP](#)
[FOLLOW](#)

ABOUT
 DETAILS
 SOURCES (0)
 COLLABORATE (0)
 MEMORIES (0)
 TIME LINE

Vitals

Detail View

Name • 0 Sources
 Gorm Geva he Old Knudsson King of Denmark

Sex • 0 Sources
 Male

Birth • 0 Sources
 before 0900
 Gormshøj, Jellinge, Vejle, Denmark

Christening
 + ADD

Death • 0 Sources
 958
 Jellinge, Vejle, Denmark

Burial
 + ADD

Other Information

Research Help (2)

No Sources Attached
 This person has no sources attached to his or her information.

Person May Have Children
 The person is 15 or older but has no spouse or children listed.

[SHOW ALL](#)

Search Records

FamilySearch


Ancestry

Key Things to Know

- An Individual can be merged up to 250 times. Sometimes a person has already hit this limit.
- Don't be afraid to merge but also don't be careless. A merge can be undone if necessary but it's best to get it right the first time.
- FamilySearch will search for merges for you. Sometimes it finds a duplicate that is not valid. Do not assume it is a real duplicate just because the website thinks it is. Increasing the amount of detail on a person decreases the odds of this happening. If your ancestor is simply Peder Nielsen born 1730 in Denmark the website will identify many Peder Nielsen's living all over the country that could be yours, providing a more exact county or parish (even if it is just an educated guess) of birth will help the website to better help you.
- You will be unable to request the person's ordinances until all duplicates are accepted or rejected.

Finding Duplicates

- You can find duplicates by in the "Research Help" or "Tools" section and then clicking "Possible Duplicates".



Thor Joensen Ruud
 1629 – 10 September 1716 • KFG6-VZ6

[VIEW TREE](#)
[VIEW RELATIONSHIP](#)
[FOLLOW](#)

ABOUT
 DETAILS
 SOURCES (0)
 COLLABORATE (0)
 MEMORIES (0)
 TIME LINE

Vitals

Detail View

Name • 0 Sources
 Thor Joensen Ruud

Sex • 0 Sources
 Male



Birth • 0 Sources
 1629
 Roken, Akershus, Norway

Christening
 + ADD

Death • 0 Sources
 10 Sep 1716
 Norway

Burial
 + ADD

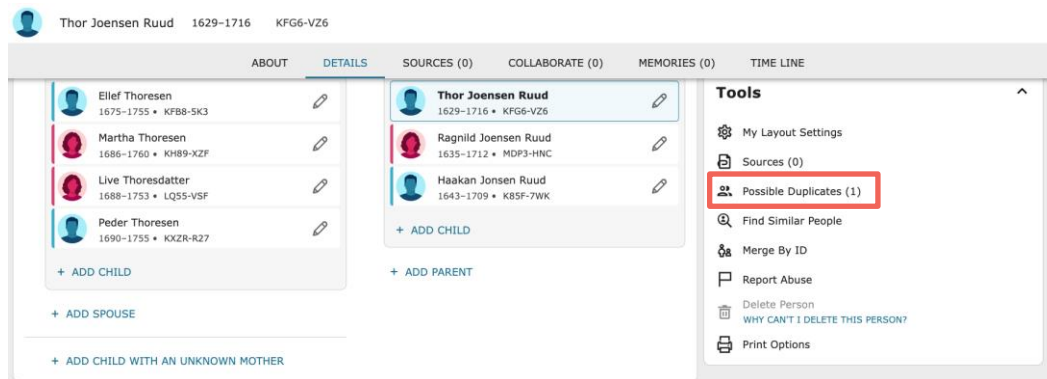
Research Help (3)


Possible Duplicate

Thore Joensen Ruud
 1629-1716 • MTM4-9PS

Possible Missing Child
 There is a gap of 3 or more years between the birth of one child and the next sibling.

No Sources Attached
 This person has no sources attached to his or her information.

[SHOW ALL](#)



Merging Duplicates

- In tree view, click on the red box and then click the blue “Review Merge” button.
- You will be lead through a series of three pages. On the first page you will review the two individuals, to determine if they are the same person. On the second you will choose which information is best, and on the third you will provide a reason for the merge you are doing.
- On the first page the person who will be deleted is shown on the left and the surviving person will be on the right, simply decide if they are a match. If they are scroll down to the bottom and click “Yes Continue” if not click “Not a Match” and provide a reason.

Step 1 of 3: Are these people a possible match? BACK NOT A MATCH YES CONTINUE

Possible Duplicate
Information in this column will be deleted at the end of the merge.

Thore Joensen Ruud
1629 – 20 September 1716 • MTM4-9PS
Added: 15 June 2012

Vitals

Name
Thore Joensen Ruud

Birth
1629
Reken, Akershus, Norway

Death
20 Sep 1716

⚠ The death dates do not match. This may indicate these persons are really separate individuals with similar profiles.

Surviving Person
Information in this column will be saved at the end of the merge.

Thor Joensen Ruud
1629 – 10 September 1716 • KFG6-VZ6
Added: 10 April 2012

Vitals

Name
Thor Joensen Ruud

Birth
1629
Roken, Akershus, Norway

Death
10 Sep 1716
Norway

⚠ The death dates do not match. This may indicate these persons are really separate individuals with similar profiles.

- If you clicked yes, on the second page you will now choose which information you like best. Anytime the information on the left is better than the information on the right click the button that says “Replace” otherwise the information on the left will be deleted. Sometimes you may want to preserve the person on the left instead of the right, if so, click the “switch” button at the top.

Step 2 of 3: Select the information you want to save. BACK NOT A MATCH CONTINUE

Possible Duplicate
Information in this column will be deleted at the end of the merge.

[↔ Switch](#)

Thore Joensen Ruud
1629 – 20 September 1716 • MTM4-9PS
Added: 15 June 2012

Vitals

Name
Thore Joensen Ruud

[→ REPLACE](#)

Sex
Male

Surviving Person
Information in this column will be saved at the end of the merge.

Thor Joensen Ruud
1629 – 10 September 1716 • KFG6-VZ6
Added: 10 April 2012

Vitals

Name
Thor Joensen Ruud

Sex
Male

- After clicking continue you will be led to the final page where you provide a reason for your merge. You can type anything you want in this box, or you may choose one of the pre-filled boxes by clicking the word “Add” on the desired box. Whatever you choose will be visible to others. Choosing a good reason helps ensure someone will not alter it later. Click “Finish Merge” to complete the process.

Step 3 of 3: Confirm your changes by finishing the merge. BACK NOT A MATCH FINISH MERGE

Reason For Merge

Explain why you think this merge is correct.

Suggested Reason Statements [Learn More](#)
You may select one of these statements to add to your reason statement.

All vital information and relationships match. ID numbers: MTM4-9PS and KFG6-VZ6.
[ADD](#)

Most vital information and relationships match. Some details contain minor conflicts. ID numbers: MTM4-9PS and KFG6-VZ6.
[ADD](#)

Most vital information and relationships match. No details conflict. ID numbers: MTM4-9PS and KFG6-VZ6.
[ADD](#)

This record contains little information: MTM4-9PS. There is enough evidence to believe it is the same person as KFG6-VZ6.
[ADD](#)

Confirm Changes
Green boxes are indicators of newly added or changed conclusions.

Thor Joensen Ruud
1629 – 10 September 1716 • KFG6-VZ6

Vitals

Name
Thor Joensen Ruud

Birth
1629
Roken, Akershus, Norway

Death
10 Sep 1716
Norway

Other Information

Alternate Name
Birth Name
Thore Joensen Ruud

Alternate Name

Manual Merging

- Sometimes you know two people are duplicates even though the website has not realized it. In this case scroll down to the “Tools” section on a person’s page and click, “Merge by ID” then paste in the FamilySearch ID number of the known duplicate.

Annette Zollinger 1943–2021 LV4L-SFQ

ABOUT DETAILS SOURCES (8) COLLABORATE (1) MEMORIES (2) TIME LINE

Show All Family Members

Spouses and Children

Clarence Leavitt Grover
1927–2018 • KWZB-H1S

Annette Zollinger
1943–2021 • LV4L-SFQ

No Marriage Events

Children (0)

+ ADD CHILD

+ ADD SPOUSE

+ ADD CHILD WITH AN UNKNOWN FATHER

Parents and Siblings

Dallas Zollinger
1913–2008 • KWCX-WCJ

Margaret Hovey
1916–2009 • KWCX-WCV

Marriage
10 November 1937
Logan, Cache, Utah, United States

Children (4)

Annette Zollinger
1943–2021 • LV4L-SFQ

Richard Dallas Zollinger
1946–1947 • MZ8T-9Z7

Tools

SHOW ALL

- My Layout Settings
- Sources (8)
- Possible Duplicates (0)**
- Find Similar People
- Merge By ID
- Report Abuse
- Delete Person
WHY CAN'T I DELETE THIS PERSON?
- Print Options

Unmerging

- If two people have been merged incorrectly and it needs to be undone, go to the person page of the surviving individual, scroll down to where it says, "Latest Changes" and click "Show All." Any merges made will appear in the list. Click on "unmerge," provide a reason, and then click "unmerge" again.

Thor Joensen Ruud 1629–1716 KFG6-VZ6

ABOUT DETAILS SOURCES (0) COLLABORATE (0) MEMORIES (0) TIME LINE

Family Members

Show All Family Members

Spouses and Children

Thor Joensen Ruud
1629–1716 • KFG6-VZ6

Mrs. Thore Joensen Ruud
1650–Deceased • MYNB-K6N

Parents and Siblings

Joen Ruud
1600–Deceased • KH23-CYZ

Mrs. Joen Ruud
1610–Deceased • KD34-WDZ

Latest Changes

SHOW ALL

- MARCH 20, 2023
Merge Completed
By B BrandonBaird
- MARCH 20, 2023
Merge Started
By B BrandonBaird
- NOVEMBER 9, 2017
Relationship Deleted
By N Nicholas Applegate

[← BACK TO THOR JOENSEN RUUD](#)



Thor Joensen Ruud
1629-1716 • KFG6-VZ6

All Changes

[FILTER](#)

Change	Value		Date	
Merge	Surviving Person Thor Joensen Ruud 1629-1716 • KFG6-VZ6	Deleted Person Thore Joensen Ruud 1629-1716 • MTM4-9PS	March 20, 2023 Brandon Baird	UNMERGE
Reason: All vital information and relationships match. ID numbers: MTM4-9PS and KFG6-VZ6.				
Relationship Deleted	Father Joen Ruud 1600-Deceased • KH23-CYZ	Mother Mrs. Joen Ruud 1610-Deceased • MDP3-HXT	November 8, 2017 Nicholas Applegate	REFERENCE
Child Deleted Thor Joensen Ruud 1629-1716 • KFG6-VZ6				